



March, 2003

Dear Educator:

The Mayor's Office, the Fresno Grizzlies and the National Center for Fathering are pleased to be partnering with Peoples Church and Albertsons to sponsor the **2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year Essay Contest™**. Also providing generous support are Harden Fisher, Wawona Frozen Foods, Granville Homes, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Geared primarily for young people grades 1-12, the Contest is designed to . . .

- Improve writing skills and stimulate a child's thinking about his/her father, stepfather, grandfather or another father figure and the nurturing role he plays.
- Raise the awareness level of the importance of fathering in our communities and focus public attention on what makes a great father.

Since every young person who writes an essay wins, we strongly encourage you and/or your teachers to set aside a day between now and the Contest submission deadline — **April 7, 2003** — and have your students write an essay entitled: **"What My Father Means to Me."**

EVERYONE IS A WINNER! Each young person who participates will receive a handsome Certificate of Participation from the Mayor and FREE Krispy Kreme doughnuts. By writing an essay, young people will automatically nominate their father, stepfather or another father figure for the **2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year** (to be announced prior to Father's Day, June 15, 2003). Essay winners in each grade level will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond from Albertsons.

If your school submits 100 or more entries, you will receive a special certificate that salutes your commitment to the family and the importance of fathers. The school that submits the most entries will also win sports equipment with a retail value of \$250.

This packet includes everything you need to know about the essay assignment, contest rules and prizes, and how to enter. **Please reproduce these pages and distribute them to the teachers in your school.** The following yellow page, entitled TEACHER INSTRUCTION SHEET, provides a simple step-by-step guide for your faculty. We look forward to your students' participation, and reading what they have to say about their dads.

Sincerely,

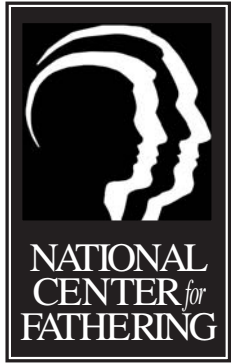


Alan Autry
Mayor, City of Fresno



Ken R. Canfield, Ph.D.
Founder and President, National Center for Fathering





**Father of the Year Essay Excerpts —
2002 “What My Father Means to Me” Essay Winners**

“My dad is the best dad ever. I would kiss a pig for him.”

Brandon Harris, 1st grade

“My dad is sugar in my teacup, butter on my bread, the sunshine of my day and music to my ears.”

Hannah Furlan, 2nd grade

“I miss my daddy so much... it makes me cry at night. I need my daddy but he always says to me he would not leave me and he did. He said he would come and he didn’t.”

Timothy Chandler, 3rd grade

“I describe my dad as a wildflower glistening in the prairie; nice as a butterfly and protective as a mother bear. He teaches me almost everything. His emotions are clear as day.”

Zachary Shirley, 4th grade

“...Dad taught me to ride a bike, he kept holding me so I wouldn’t fall, and that is what I think dads are for, to hold you up, and if you fall, they will pick you up again.”

Taylor Patterson, 5th grade

“There are over a million step fathers in the world but mine is one in a million.”

Antonio Coutee, 8th grade

“There are not enough words in the universe to express the feelings I have towards my dad. There is not enough space in the human brain to keep track of all the fabulous memories of him. There is not enough time in a life to enjoy every happy moment with my father, but I always try hard to cherish it all.”

Whitney Willis, 9th grade

“My dad isn’t a millionaire or a rich man, but somewhere between the laughter, the joy and the love he gives, it makes me feel like the richest girl in the world.”

Abrielle Armant, 10th grade

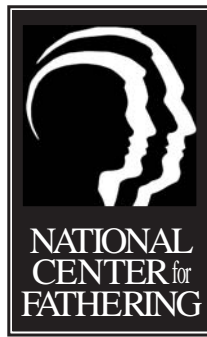
“My father’s absence in my life showed me that people have flaws, and you either accept them for who they are or you complicate your life trying to change them. He showed me that someone can love you no matter what because I love him no matter what.”

Kristen Cospers, 11th grade

“My dad has the charm of Mel Gibson, the humor of Rodney Dangerfield, and the courage of Indiana Jones.”

Anna Hogan, 12th grade

**TEACHER
INSTRUCTION
SHEET
(YELLOW)**

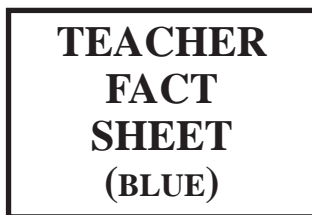


2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year Essay ContestTM

Please complete the following steps:

- _____ 1. **Review the blue TEACHER FACT SHEET.** Please pay particular attention to the Contest Requirements, Criteria for Judging, and Important Notes for Teachers.
- _____ 2. **Copy and distribute the white CONTEST FACT SHEET and the white OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM** to your students. Review the prizes, Contest Requirements and Criteria for Judging with your students. Make sure they complete ALL the information at the top of the form so that they – and their fathers/father figures – are eligible for recognition and prizes.
- _____ 3. **MAKE COPIES OF ALL COMPLETED ESSAYS.** Submitted essays will not be returned.
- _____ 4. **Complete the ivory-colored TEACHER/CLASS SUBMISSION FORM.** This form must be completed in its entirety for your students' essays to be considered or eligible for prizes.
- _____ 5. **Place the TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM** on top of your students' essays and submit in time to be received by April 7, 2003 to:

2003 Greater Fresno FOY
Mayor's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
- _____ 6. **Students should fill out the enclosed NOMINATION LETTER** and be encouraged to present the letter to their father or father figure along with a copy of their essay.
- _____ 7. Certificates of Participation will arrive in the mail in **May**. Please plan to enter the names of participating students on the certificates and present in a meaningful way.



2003 GREATER FRESNO FATHER OF THE YEAR ESSAY CONTEST™

ESSAY SUBJECT: “What My Father Means to Me”

Procedure: Write a brief essay which describes your relationship with your father or father figure and what he means to you. Share your true feelings and provide examples. Include any joys, frustrations, or special memories you may have. Finally, end with a comment about what you would like (or would have liked) to see more of in your relationship with your dad.

Contest Requirements:

1. Essays should be **300 words or less**, fit on two sides of one sheet of paper, be legible, and written in English. Handwritten essays are acceptable. First and second graders may dictate their essays according to teaching practice.
2. **To be eligible for prizes, all essays must be received on or before April 7, 2003. Each submitted essay must include ALL the information required on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. All information is held in strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except the Father of the Year Essay Contest and father training opportunities.**
3. Children wishing to submit artwork with their essays may do so, but it will not affect the essay judging. Artwork may be reproduced in future publications by the National Center for Fathering without notification.
4. Essay Contest winners will be announced by April 30, 2003. The Father of the Year will be announced prior to Father’s Day, June 15, 2003.

Criteria for Judging: All entries must meet the requirements listed below and will be evaluated according to grade level. Beyond this, judging criteria will consist of:

1. How well students describe the nature of their relationship with their father or father figure.
2. How students support their description with specific examples from their own experience.
3. Students’ honesty, clarity, and simplicity in expressing their thoughts, even though they may be complex.
4. Students’ overall writing skill.

Important Notes for Teachers:

This Essay Contest/writing assignment is designed so that every student (grades 1-12) can participate. Of course, we recognize that some children have little or no contact with their biological fathers, either as a result of death, divorce, or abandonment. Consequently, you may encourage those children to write about their father figures—men who are not their biological dads but have fathered them. This could be a stepfather, grandfather, uncle or even a male teacher or coach.

We would, however, like to see the vast majority of the students encouraged to write about their own fathers, even if their experience with them has been painful or unsatisfying. In light of this, please emphasize that you want the students to be honest in articulating feelings about their relationship with their father, even

if the relationship is not a positive one. All essays will be judged and treated with the same respect and confidentiality. While the fathers in those particular essays will obviously not be chosen as the Father of the Year, it is possible that the essayist could still be a grade level winner.

Please read the following instructions in their entirety. Failure to follow them may prevent your students from receiving the recognition and prizes they deserve.

Recommended Assignment and Essay Processing Procedures

1. This packet includes one **CONTEST FACT SHEET**. The front side lists what the student needs to know about the assignment itself, and the back side lists all of the Essay Contest prizes. **Feel free to reproduce this page and the TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM as needed for distribution to other interested teachers.**

2. An **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM** is also included. All essays must be submitted using this entry form and be received on or before April 7, 2003. **Each submitted essay must include ALL the information on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM.** This enables students to receive their prizes, and fathers/father figures to participate in the selection process for Father of the Year. All information is held in strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except to notify participants about the Father of the Year Essay Contest results and father training opportunities.

3. The **NOMINATION LETTER** can be copied for students to present to their fathers or father figures along with a copy of their essay, as appropriate. The purpose of the letter is to inform the fathers and father figures about the Contest and provide them with the opportunity to be involved in this classroom assignment.

4. We recommend that teachers make copies of each essay. The original should be submitted to the Essay Contest. Additional copies may be used for grading, to retain as a record of participation, or for students to take home along with the NOMINATION LETTER. The essays and any submitted artwork will not be returned and will become the property of the National Center for Fathering.

5. **To submit the essays written by your students for judging, you must complete the enclosed TEACHER/CLASS SUBMISSION FORM. Make sure you note the number of essays you are submitting, then place the completed form, along with the essays in a large envelope. ATTENTION: Without the completed OFFICIAL ENTRY form, your students' essays will not be considered and will not be eligible for prizes.**

6. Mail essays to: 2003 Greater Fresno FOY
Mayor's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

In May, you will receive enough participation certificates to distribute to each of the students in your class who submitted an essay. Questions? Call the Essay Contest information line toll free at 866-292-3237 or go to the National Center for Fathering web site at www.fathers.com/contest.

Judging Process:

1. Essays will be divided into 12 categories (grades 1-12). Local volunteers, selected and trained by the National Center for Fathering, will utilize Judging Criteria 1-4 and read every single essay. These local volunteers will select the top 10 to 15 essays in each grade level and forward them on to the National Center for Fathering.
2. The National Center for Fathering staff will read each of these top essays and select the top three essays in each grade level (36 total).
3. The 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year will be selected from the fathers or father figures of the 36 essay finalists.
4. The procedure for choosing the 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year is as follows:
 - a. Fathers and father figures in the winning essay categories will receive questionnaires from the National Center for Fathering. The questions are designed to solicit written responses which will help the National Center for Fathering officials determine how these men view their fathering role and what priority they place upon it. As noted earlier, it's possible that a child with a highly dysfunctional dad can write a winning essay. Great sensitivity is given to the confidentiality of all essays and, in these instances, the father will not receive a questionnaire.
 - b. When these questionnaires are returned, up to 10 Father of the Year semi-finalists will be selected by the National Center for Fathering staff. These semi-finalists will then be personally interviewed (either by phone or face-to-face) by associates of the National Center for Fathering. A scoring system which includes their child's essay (20%), the returned questionnaire (40%) and the interview (40%) determines the Greater Fresno Father of the Year. The top five fathers and their families will receive recognition at the Father of the Year Award Ceremony in June 2003.

CONTEST FACT SHEET



2003 GREATER FRESNO FATHER OF THE YEAR ESSAY CONTEST™

ESSAY SUBJECT: “What My Father Means to Me”

Procedure: Write a brief essay which describes your relationship with your father or father figure and what he means to you. Share your true feelings and provide examples. Include any joys, frustrations, or special memories you may have. Finally, end with a comment about what you would like (or would have liked) to see more of in your relationship with your dad.

Contest Requirements:

1. Essays should be **300 words or less**, fit on two sides of one sheet of paper, be legible, and written in English. Handwritten essays are acceptable. First and second graders may dictate their essays according to teaching practice.
2. To be eligible for prizes, all essays must be received on or before April 7, 2003. **Each submitted essay must include ALL the information listed on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. This enables students to receive their prizes and fathers/father figures to participate in the selection process for Father of the Year. All information is held in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except the Father of the Year Essay Contest and father training opportunities.**
3. Mail essays to:
2003 Greater Fresno FOY
Mayor's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
4. Essay finalists will be announced by April 30, 2003.

Criteria for Judging: All entries must meet the requirements listed below and will be evaluated according to grade level. Beyond this, judging criteria will consist of:

1. How well you describe the nature of your relationship with your father or father figure.
2. Your use of specific details and stories that demonstrate your father's or father figure's character.
3. How honestly, clearly, and simply you express your thoughts, even though they may be complicated.
4. Your overall writing skill.

Additional Rules:

1. One entry per person. All essays must be original and created by the entrant. All decisions of the judges will be final. In the case of a tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded.
2. All essays become the property of the National Center for Fathering. **Make copies of your essay for your own possession.**
3. Entry in the Contest transfers the copyright of the essay and any submitted artwork to the National Center for Fathering. The author grants the National Center for Fathering permission to reproduce without compensation all or portions of the essay on an unlimited, worldwide basis in its publications. The National Center for Fathering, when appropriate, will cite the name of the author if significant portions of a positive essay are used. The National Center for Fathering will also change or conceal names in published essays to maintain confidentiality where necessary or required.
4. Contest is open to U.S. residents, except employees of the Mayor's Office, the Fresno Grizzlies, Peoples Church, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Albertsons, Harden Fisher, Wawona Frozen Foods, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, Granville Homes, and the National Center for Fathering, their respective affiliated companies or members of their respective families.
5. All prizes are listed on the CONTEST FACT SHEET. All prizes will be awarded. Taxes on all prizes are the sole responsibility of winners. No prize transfers or substitutions, except by sponsor due to unavailability. Prize winners and their parents or guardian if prize winner is a minor, must execute and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within twenty (20) days or prize will be awarded to an alternate. Offer subject to federal, state and local regulations and laws and void where taxed, restricted or prohibited. By entering, participants agree to these rules and the decisions of the judges and expressly consent to the use of their name, photograph or likeness for advertising this and similar promotions of the Mayor's Office, the Fresno Grizzlies, Peoples Church, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Albertsons, Harden Fisher, Wawona Frozen Foods, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, Granville Homes, and the National Center for Fathering without compensation.
6. For a list of prize winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope by July 2, 2003 to: 2003 Greater Fresno FOY, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year ESSAY CONTEST™

Great Contest Prizes!

To EVERY YOUNG PERSON who participates and writes an essay:

- A handsome Certificate of Participation from the Mayor's Office, the Fresno Grizzlies, Peoples Church, Albertsons, Harden Fisher, Wawona Foods, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and the National Center for Fathering.
- An opportunity for your father or father figure to be nominated for the 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year Award.
- Coupons for two FREE doughnuts from Krispy Kreme (one for essay writer, one for dad/father figure).

To the ESSAY WINNER in each grade (1-12):

- \$100 U.S Savings Bond from Albertsons
- A Coca Cola Summer Fun Pack
- The opportunity for your father or father figure to be interviewed for the Father of the Year Award by an associate of the National Center for Fathering. (Fathers and father figures of the 36 essay finalists are eligible to be interviewed.)
- Invitation for you and your family to attend a special recognition ceremony in June.

To the 5 DADS who are selected as FINALISTS for the Father of the Year award:

- A Barbeque and picnic pack from Albertsons
- Induction into the National Center's Fathering Hall of Fame.
- "Hall of Fame Dad" golf shirt and hat.
- Invitation for you and your family to attend a special recognition ceremony in June.

To the WINNER of the 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year Award:

- Recognition as the 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year at a special awards ceremony held in June.
- A Barbeque and \$250 Albertsons gift card
- Induction into the National Center's Fathering Hall of Fame.
- "Hall of Fame Dad" golf shirt and hat.

To TEACHERS and SCHOOLS who participate:

- A Certificate of Appreciation for all teachers who participate.
- A Certificate to Schools saluting their commitment to the family and the importance of fathers for schools that submit 100 or more entries.
- Sports equipment with a retail value of \$250 for the school with the most entries. (In the event of a tie, the school with the highest percentage of participation will win.)



California Fresh Frozen Fruits in Syrup and IQF



**TEACHER /
CLASS
SUBMISSION
FORM
(IVORY)**



2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year Essay Contest™

Dear Teacher:

Please carefully fill out the information requested below and return this form, along with the essays written by your students, in a large envelope. This form must be completed and submitted for your students to be considered. **All essays must be submitted on or before April 7, 2003. Each submitted essay must include ALL the information required on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. All information is held in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except the Father of the Year Essay Contest and father training opportunities.**

Send via first class mail to: 2003 Greater Fresno FOY
Mayor's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

We will not be returning the essays or artwork, so we recommend that you photocopy them. This will allow your students to show their essays to their fathers (as appropriate). We recommend they include a copy of their essay with the enclosed Nomination Letter. Participation certificates will be mailed in May.

Today's Date_____ Last Day of Classes_____ Class Grade_____

Teacher Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss)_____

Teacher's E-mail Address_____ School Phone Number_____

School Principal's Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss)_____

Name of School_____ School District _____

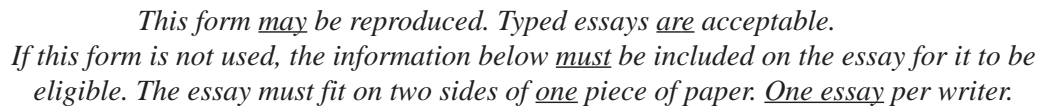
School Street Address_____

City/State/Zip_____ County _____

⇒ **Number of Essays Enclosed**_____ **(MUST BE COMPLETED)** ⇐

⇒ **Number of Students in Your School**_____ **(MUST BE COMPLETED)** ⇐

Questions about anything? Call the Essay Contest information line at 866-292-3237 or go to the National Center for Fathering Contest web site at www.fathers.com/contest.



Student Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Address _____ School Phone Number _____

School District _____ County _____

I am writing about my: ☐ Father ☐ Grandfather ☐ Stepfather ☐ Father Figure

Father's/Father Figure's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Father's/Father Figure's E-mail Address (if available) _____

This information is strictly confidential and will not be used for any purpose except the 2003 Father of the Year Essay Contest.

In 300 words or less, describe in your own words: “What My Father Means To Me.”

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

(Original essays will not be returned.)

Nomination Letter

Dear _____:

“Today, I wrote about ‘*What My Father Means to Me.*’”

Congratulations! You are a Greater Fresno Father of the Year Nominee!

On behalf of the Mayor’s Office and the National Center for Fathering, congratulations on your nomination for Greater Fresno’s 2003 Father of the Year. For the second consecutive year, the National Center for Fathering and the Mayor’s Office have partnered with local schools and educators in and around your community to conduct the Father of the Year Essay Contest.

Designed to encourage children to think and write about the relationship they have with their father, stepfather, grandfather or another father figure, the Contest helps to raise awareness about the importance of fathering in our communities. It also provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding fathers and father figures right here in Fresno!

This past month, your child was given the opportunity to participate in the Contest by writing an essay on the theme, “What My Father Means to Me.” By submitting an essay about you, your child has nominated you for the 2003 Greater Fresno Father of the Year. What a wonderful way for your child to say thank you!

To learn more about your nomination, the Contest and what happens next, please visit us at fathers.com/contest and click on the “**Dads Only**” link.

While you’re visiting make sure to register to complete a FREE Personal Fathering Profile. Providing a comprehensive evaluation of your unique fathering style, the Personal Fathering Profile will help you explore how to begin developing your fathering skills today!

The “**Dads Only**” link is a site designed just for you. It’s a perfect place to visit if you’re looking for:

- **Information about the Contest and how to make the most of this experience**
- **Ideas or suggestions about how to be a better dad**
- **Suggestions or tips for specific fathering situations**
- **Father training opportunities**

Love, _____